

Tsai House
SM-695
East side Three Notch Road (MD 235)
Lexington Park vicinity
Circa 1948
Private

The Tsai House was most likely built *circa* 1948 following the establishment of the Patuxent Naval Air Station (NAS) earlier in the decade. Prior to the formation of NAS, the county's economy was primarily based upon agriculture (tobacco) and fishing, and very little modern development was evident in this portion of the state. In 1940, the population of the Bay district was 1,287; by 1950 it had increased nearly five-fold to 10,575. With this tremendous influx of workers in so short a period, residences were constructed near the base, and later spread to outlying areas along Three Notch Road (MD 235); intense modern commercial development has occurred within the past decade, further transforming the landscape.

This one-story gable-roof stucco-covered house is a common example of the type of dwelling that was constructed during the mid-twentieth century. Houses built during this time typically consisted of 1 or 1.5-story frame or brick dwellings in Cape Cod, bungalow and ranch styles. They commonly had gable roofs (both front and side facing), multi-pane double-hung sash and tripartite picture windows, and minimal decorative details such as brick window sills, shutters and sometimes simple moldings or pilasters at the main entry. Variations on the basic type included concrete block construction (sometimes stucco covered) and a hipped roof. These house types, which feature similar massing, shape and materials, were built in large numbers following World War II.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.SM-695

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Tsai House

2. Location

street & number East side Three Notch Road (MD 235) south of Rue Purchase Rd. not for publication

city, town Lexington Park ☒ vicinity

county St. Mary's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Chu-Fa Su-Chew Tsai

street & number 2310 Alta Vista Road telephone

city, town Bethesda state and zip code MD 20814

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel 43/213

city, town Leonardtown liber and folio MRB215/205

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count		
				Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/ culture	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown			
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:			<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-695

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The vacant residence on the east side of Three Notch Road (MD 235) is located approximately 80 feet east of the road in a relatively undeveloped area of the corridor. The building is in very poor condition. Several mature trees and shrubs surround the house and a gravel drive is located on the south side of the building.

The 1-story stucco covered rectangular building is supported by a concrete foundation and has an asphalt shingle gable roof. Windows throughout the house consist primarily of eight-over-eight double-hung sash; many of the windows have broken or missing glass and two have been replaced.

The east elevation contains four bays: a door in the south end and three eight-over-eight windows. The north elevation includes a small one-over-one window flanked on either side an eight-over-eight window. The west elevation contains four bays: two eight-over-eight windows in the north end, a set of paired eight-over-eight windows, and a door in the south end. The south elevation contains two six-over-six windows; both of these window frames are larger than the current sash (one is filled in with glass block) and appeared to have contained larger windows at one time.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-695

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	

Specific dates Circa 1948 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual).

The residence on the east side of Three Notch Road south of Rue Purchase Road was most likely built *circa* 1948 following the establishment of the Patuxent Naval Air Station (NAS) earlier in the decade. Prior to the formation of NAS, the county's economy was primarily based upon agriculture (tobacco) and fishing, and very little modern development was evident in this portion of the state. In 1940, the population of the Bay district was 1,287; by 1950 it had increased nearly five-fold to 10,575 (Hammitt 1991:491). With this tremendous influx of workers in so short a period, residences were constructed near the base, and later spread to outlying areas along Three Notch Road (MD 235).

This house is a common example of the type of dwelling that was constructed during the mid-twentieth century. Houses built during this time typically consisted of 1 or 1.5-story frame or brick dwellings in Cape Cod, bungalow and ranch styles. They commonly had gable roofs (both front and side facing), multi-pane double-hung sash and tripartite picture windows, and minimal decorative details such as brick window sills, shutters and sometimes simple moldings or pilasters at the main entry. Variations on the basic type included concrete block construction (sometimes stucco covered) and a hipped roof. These house types, which feature similar massing, shape and materials, were built in large numbers following World War II.

It is unlikely that historic or prehistoric archeological resources are preserved on this property. The extensive disturbance typically associated with construction during the last 50 years is likely to have displaced any archeological resources that may have been on this property. Similarly, commercial and residential development in the vicinity make the survival of archeological resources on adjacent properties unlikely.

Historical documentation does not indicate that this resource is associated with Criterion A, broad patterns of history or a significant event or Criterion B, an important person who contributed to local or state history. The property does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction nor does it represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, Criterion C, architecture, does not apply. Lastly, the property is unlikely to yield information which contributes to our understanding of human history. As a result of recent modern development in the immediate area, the property lacks integrity of association, feeling and setting. The poor condition and removal of original fabric have compromised the dwelling's integrity of design, materials, workmanship and location.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments:	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Reviewer, NR program</p> </div> <div> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Date 11/16/98</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Date</p> </div> </div>	

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-695

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Southern Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930 - Present

Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Dwelling

Known Design Source:

None

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1634-1990. Ridge, MD (privately published), 1991.
Hughes, Elizabeth. Final Report - St. Mary's County Historic Sites Survey. Valley Lee, St. George Island, Bay and Patuxent Districts. St. Mary's County Department of Planning and Zoning, 1995.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.2 acres

Acreage surveyed 1.2 acres

Quadrangle name Solomon's Island, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 213, Map 43, Grid 02

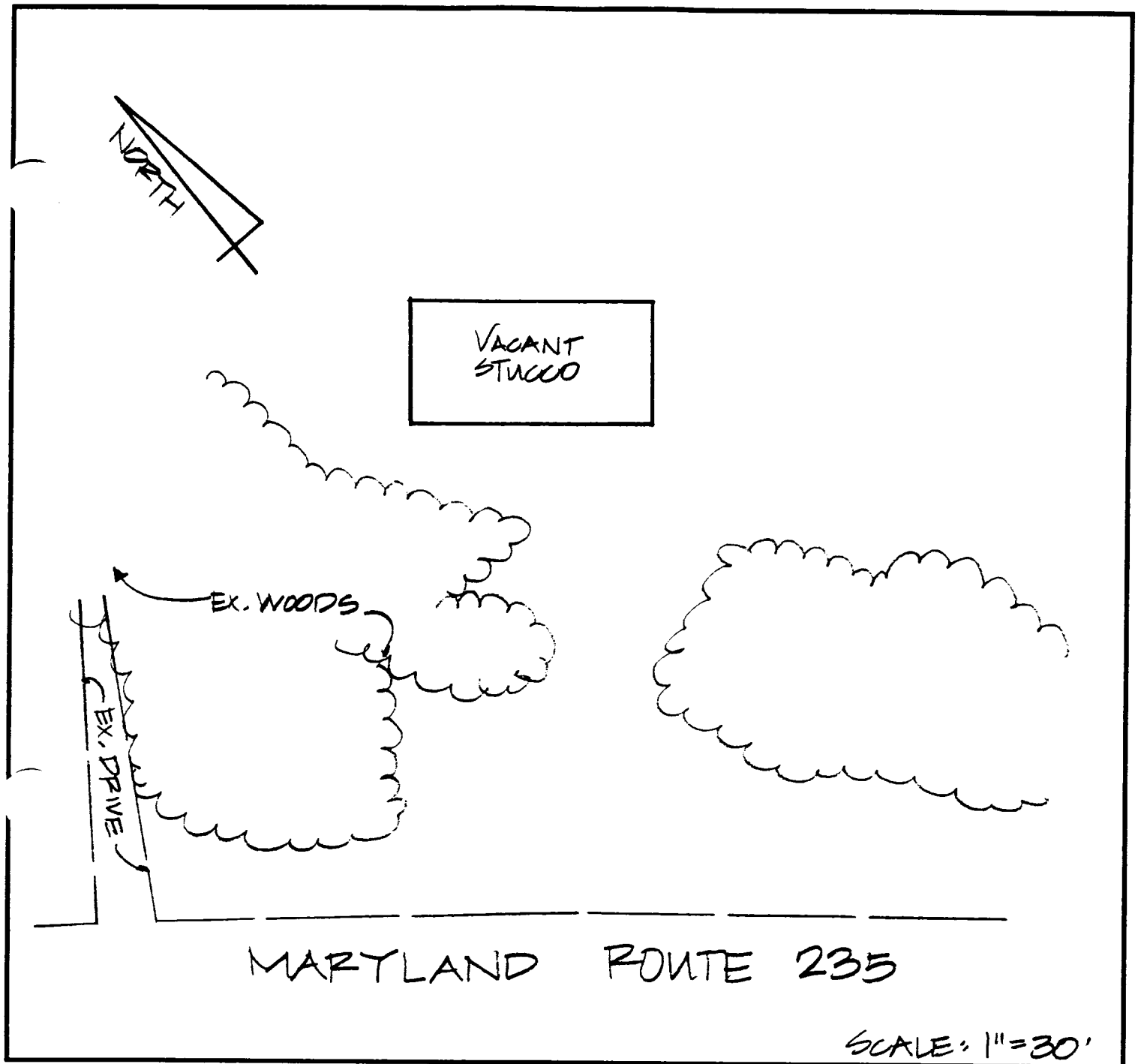
11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret B. Parker		
organization	KCI Technologies, Inc.	date	7-21-98
street & number	10 North Park Drive	telephone	410-316-7857
city or town	Hunt Valley	state and zip code	MD 21030-1888

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7646



SM-695
Tsai House, E. Side Three Notch Road
California Vicinity, St. Mary's Co.
Resource Sketch Map



MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

10 NORTH PARK DRIVE
HUNT VALLEY, MD 21030
410-316-7800

MD 235: MD 4 to MD 246
St. Mary's County, MD

BCS 95-17A





SN-695

St Marys Co

Margaret Parker

7/29/90

MD SHPO

N - W elev.

1 of 2



SM-695

St Marys Co.

Margaret Parker

7/29/98

MM SHPO

E + S elev.

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